

## ANNIVERSARY APPRAISAL

STATINTL

# The Total Disy of Pigs

By BEN PRICE  
and THEODORE A. EDICER  
Associated Press Staff Writers

For the watchful Cuban troops of Prime Minister Fidel Castro, the sudden appearance of the United States warship in the glare of the Cayo Guano light was the final tipoff.

Cayo Guano is at the head of the Bay of Pigs and southeast of Havana.

Obviously, the long awaited invasion was about to begin. Cuban radios began drumming out the alert order in Morse code:

"Place yourself on a work status. Urgent."

And so the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs by 1,500 armed opponents of Fidel Castro on April 17, 1961, two years ago next Wednesday--was doomed.

The now known facts indicate that it was a failure from the outset.

### Assertions of U. S. Betrayal

Bitter survivors of that ill-fated expedition, claiming betrayal by the United States, assert:

A United States Navy aircraft carrier operating under the code name "Santiago" was within 20 miles of the invasion beach with jets and propeller driven fighters aboard painted with the blue identifying stripe of the anti-Castro brigade.

While some of these airplanes were airborne during the operation.

It cost upwards of \$53 million to ransom the invasion survivors from Cuban prisons.

It has cost \$75 million to date to support 200,000 Cuban refugees whose homeland is now closed to them because the invasion failed.

It cost the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which masterminded the operation, a considerable portion of its reputation for competence.

### Our Image Tarnished

And it tarnished the image of the United States as a Nation of high moral persuasion in the conduct of international affairs.



iments. In Havana 200,000 were rounded up into any place with it.

ble sympathy uprising rushed at the outset, happened?

10-11, the brigade had Puerto Cabezas on Island, Nicaragua, a which they had been Guatemala.

a could not assert the invasion had from her soil.

### Boats

Puerto Cabezas, on five Liberty-type transports, the Rio Escondido, Caribe, Houston, and ss. The Lake Charles (code name "mand ship") ship. It hind aid was to land up operations.

18 we received a ram the American air- "Santiago" telling us 0 p.m. that day we air support from six (World War II fight-

we saw two planes nute later two others is Cuba. Immediately ie first two planes re- the others followed. at moment we knew

we had been the victims of a great betrayal.

"We had 18 plane. It took them three hours to fly from Puerto Cabezas. They would fight for about three quarters of an hour and then fly back for supplies. Then they would come back. It was most gruelling. I had a friend, Joaquin Varela, who went 46 hours without sleep.

### Paratroopers Take Airstrip

"On April 19 when the Cuban pilots were played out, four Americans stepped in to relieve some of them. The Americans in two B-26s were the ones from Alabama who were shot down. They were killed."

As for the paratroopers, there were 185 of them, Mr. Darias said, and they captured the Bay of Pigs airstrip, but couldn't hold it because of strafing from Mr. Castro's aircraft.

Were the Cuban invaders ever promised air cover? Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, brother to the President, said in a magazine interview this year that at no time had the United States ever promised military air support.

The key work is "military," that is, uniformed pilots in United States marked planes.

Dr. Enrique Llaça, one of those captured and ransomed, said: "We were told there would be air cover. Not officially. But it might as well have been official. We all knew the United States had a hand in the matter. We were transported to the train for the events of the previous days."

On June 28, 1961, Mr. Kennedy told a news conference he was considering changes in the intelligence setup. Some revisions were later made though how extensive they were is unknown.

Since the invasion, the top echelon of the CIA at the time has retired: Allen Dulles, director; Air Force Gen. C. P. Cabell, deputy director; and Richard M. Bissell, Jr., deputy director for plans.

18 we received a ram the American air- "Santiago" telling us 0 p.m. that day we air support from six (World War II fight-